Sugar Production

3868. SHRI RUMANDLA RAMACHANDRAIAH: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's sugar production has increased to 5.66 million tonnes in the first three months of the sugar year that began in October;

(b) if so, whether inspite of this, the industry feels that the output in the current season is lower in comparison to the last year;

(c) if so, the reasons for the same;

(d) the steps being taken by Government to improve output of sugar; and

(e) whether sugar production has also reached the highest in comparison to the previous years?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI V. SREENIVASA PRASAD): (a) and (b) India's sugar production in the first three months *i.e.* 1st October to 31st December 2001 of the current sugar season 2001-2002 was 50.72 lakh tonnes (Provisional) as against 50.69 lakh tonnes (Provisional) during the corresponding period of the last sugar season 2000-2001.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) and (e) During the season 2000-2001, the sugar production in the country reached an all time high level of 184.21 lakh tonnes (Provisional). The production of sugar during the current sugar season is estimated at 175 lakh tonnes. The decline in production during the current sugar season is primarily due to drought like conditions affecting sugarcane crop in certain parts of the country.